

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 26-50 were pending. Claims 26-32 and 41-43 were rejected. Claims 33-40 and 44-50 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms.

In this response, no claim has been canceled. Claims 26, 33, 41, and 44 have been amended. Specifically, claims 33 and 44 have been amended as independent claims including substantially all limitations of their base and intervening claims. Thus, independent claims 33 and 44 are allowable. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 33-40 and 44-50. However, at this time, Applicant elects not to place the limitations of the allowed claims into their corresponding independent claims because Applicant respectfully believes that the revised independent claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 26-32 and 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,642,061 of Gorny ("Gorny"). It is respectfully submitted that claims 26-32 and 41-43 as amended include limitations that are not disclosed or suggested by Gorny. Specifically, independent claim 1 recites as follows:

26. A device, comprising:
a clock circuit to receive an input clock signal and an enable signal and to generate a pre-charge pulsed clock signal and an evaluate pulsed clock signal based on the input clock signal and the enable signal, to pre-charge and evaluate a circuit respectively; and
a pre-charge circuit coupled to the clock circuit to receive the pre-charge pulsed clock signal and the enable signal to pre-charge the circuit, while the circuit is not being evaluated via the evaluate pulsed clock signal,
wherein the enable signal, when de-activated, causes the pre-charge circuit to continue pre-charging the circuit after pulsed time of the pre-charge pulsed clock signal.

(Emphasis added)

Independent claim 1 includes an enable signal that when it is deactivated, a pre-charge circuit will continue pre-charging a circuit even after the pulsed time of the pre-charge pulse clock signal. It is respectfully submitted that these limitations are absent from Gorny.

Although Gorny discloses a Vin signal 310, however, such a signal is not an enable signal that when de-activated, causes the pre-charge circuit to continue pre-charging a circuit even after the pulsed time of the pre-charging clock pulse has passed. Rather, the Vin 310 of Gorny “is held at a steady state high and transition to low during the evaluation period. Thereafter, the input signal is held constant through the remainder of the evaluation cycle” (see, col. 5, lines 22 to 26 of Gorny). There is no mention of an enable signal in Gorny when de-activated, causes the pre-charging period continue, particularly, regardless of states of the evaluate pulsed clock signal as recited in claim 27. Therefore, independent claim 1 is patentable over Gorny.

Similarly, independent claim 41 includes limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Thus, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 41 is patentable over Gorny. Given that the rest of the claims depend from one of the above independent claims, it is respectfully submitted that the rest of the claims are patentable over Gorny.

Furthermore, Examiner rejected claims 27-32 and 42-43 based on the alleged obviousness in view of Gorny. Claims 27-32 and 41-43 are related to specific configurations of the device recited in claims 26 and 41. In order to render a claim obvious, each and every limitations of the claim must be disclosed or suggested by the cited references. It is respectfully submitted that Gorny fails to disclose or suggest the limitations set forth in claims 27-32 and 42-43. Therefore, in addition to those discussed with respect to their respective

independent claims, for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 27-32 and 42-43 are patentable over Gorny. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

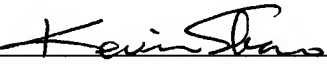
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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